

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IGA-02 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 MC-02 DRC-01 /173 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6905

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD DACCA

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 1103

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PROR,IN,PK,US

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO BHUTTO'S VISIT TO US

1. THE INDIAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS SEPTEMBER 20 HEADLINED REORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT BHUTTO HAD ASKED FOR "RED HOT WEAPONS" BUT HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN. MOST PAPER FOLLWED UP WITH FAVORABLE EDITORIALS SEPTEMBER 21, WITH TWO OF THEM TYING IN POSITIVE COMMENTARY ON THE REPORTED PL480 RUPEE AGREEMENT.

2. THE TIMES OF INDIA OBSERVED THAT USG HAD LET IT BE KNOWN BEFORE BHUTTO'S ARRIVAL THAT IT WOULD NOT ACCED TO HIS REQUEST, AND REAFFIRMED THAT POSITION AFTER VISIT. "THIS SHOULD REASSURE NEW DELHI THAT THE US HAS INDEED REVISED ITS POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH ASIA... IMPLICIT IN ITS DENIAL...IS NOT ONLY ITS DESIRE TO ACT IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT PROMOTE AN ARMS RACE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT BUT ALSO AN ACCEPTANCE OF INDIA'S NEW STATUS IN THE REGION." CONTINUING WITH PARAGRAPH ON THE"PERHAPS MERE COINCIDENCE" OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TERMS OF A PL480 RUPEE AGREEMENT, IT SAID "THIS RATHER UNDERSCORES THE POINT THAT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN MAKING A FRESH START IN ITS RELATIONS WITH INDIA... SINCE IT WOULD BE NAIVE TO BELIEVE THAT ANY U.S. ADMINISTRATION WOULD EVER

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HAVE AGREED TO WRITE OFF THESE ENORMOUS DEBTS AND THAT THE

U.S. CONGRESS WOULD HAVE ENDORSED SUCH A PROPOSAL IF IT WAS MADE, INDIA COULD NOT HAVE HOPED TO OBTAIN BETTER TERMS."

3. THE STATESMAN WELCOMED THE RECONFIRMATION OF THE USG'S MARCH 14 MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY. IT CRITICIZED GOI FOR NOT ADJUSTING TO THE U.S. REJECTION OF BHUTTO'S REQUEST. THE CLAIMED IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON " IS SMALL THANKS TO THE UNIFORMED, PREJUDICED AND HOSTILE COMMENTS PUBLICLY MADE BY MINISTERS AND CONGRESS DIGNITARIES ON THIS SUBJECT... TIRESOME HINTS OF BIG POWER PLOT TO TOPPLE MRS. GANDHI'S GOVERNMENT ARE WORSE THAN FATUOUS. THEY BETRAY A CLOSED MIND AT A TIME WHEN THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION IS UNFOLDING FAST... THE STATESMAN ALSO FEATURED, ON FIRST PAGE, WARREN UNNA'S WRAP-UP OF VISIT AS "A GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS JOB BY BHUTTO."

4. THE INDIAN EXPRESS CONCLUDED "THE REASONABLE STAND TAKEN BY THE US PRESIDENT SHOULD STRENGTHEN THE PEACE PROCESSES SET IN MOTION BY THE DELHI AGREEMENT. IT ALSO BRIGHTENS THE PROSPECTS OF FRIENDLIER RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND THE US." ITS FOLLOW-ON EDITORIAL ON PL480 RUPEES OBSERVED "WHATEVER THE TERMS MAY FINALLY TURN OUT TO BE, AN AGREEMENT ON THIS SOMEWHAT INTRACTABLE QUESTION WILL BE MOST WELCOME. IT WILL REMOVE AN UNNECESSARY IRRITANT IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND THE USA..." AS DID THE TIMES OF INDIA, THE EXPRESS WARNED OF THE INFLATIONARY EFFECT OF THE DISPOSAL PROGRAM.

5. ONLY THE MILITANT NATIONALIST JANA SANGH PARTY'S MOTHERLAND REFUSED TO TAKE THE US REJECTION AT FACE VALUE. IT CITED INDIA'S UNHAPPY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH USG ASSURANCES AND ALLEGED AMERICAN ARMS WERE ALREADY REACHING PAKISTAN VIA CENTO.

6. THE NATIONAL HERALD SAID IF THE USG DECISION IS "SERIOUSLY MEANT, " IT IS WELCOME, ALTHOUGH THE POSSIBILITY OF AMERICAN ARMS REACHING OTHER COUNTRIES THROUGH IRAN CANNOT BE RULED OUT."

7. THE LEFTIST PATRIOT, WHILE NOT COMMENTING DIRECTLY ON THE BHUTTO VISIT, SEPTEMBER 20 RAN AN EDITORIAL GENERALLY CRITICAL OF DR. KISSINGER. AMERICAN "CONSPIRACIES ... MAY SHIFT FROM THE SOUTH EAST TO THE WEST OF ASIA AND FROM THE WEST PACIFIC TO THE INDIAN OCEAN; BUT THEIR OBJECTIVE WILL BE THE SAME-- ADVANCEMENT

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OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY-INDUSTRIALIST ESTABLISHMENT TO THE POSITION OF SOLE LEADER OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD... A NEW CHAPTER IN THE CONDUCT OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IS ABOUT TO BEGIN".SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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